

5 We claim:

1. A cosmetics brush for applying mascara or other cosmetics, comprising a plurality of multi-fiber bristles deployed extending from a core, at least some of the multi-fiber bristles comprising a plurality of individual fibers in supportive interengagement.

2. A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 1 wherein the plurality of individual fibers comprises at least two different kinds of fibers.

10 3. A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 1 wherein the plurality of individual fibers includes fibers of different diameters.

4. A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 1 wherein the plurality of individual fibers includes some fibers that are stiffer than other fibers.

15 5. A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 4 wherein the plurality of individual fibers includes fibers of different diameters.

6. A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 1 wherein the plurality of individual fibers includes a central support fiber and a plurality of smaller diameter, less stiff additional fibers that are braided or woven about the central support fiber.

20 7. A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 6 wherein tip ends of the smaller diameter and less stiff additional fibers are deployed adjacent the tip ends of the central support fiber.

8. A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 7 wherein the central support fiber is a polymer fiber with a diameter in the range of .003 to .012 inches.

25 9. A mascara brush as defined in claim 8 wherein the smaller diameter and less stiff fibers comprise bundles of microfiber.

5 10. A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 9 wherein the smaller diameter and less stiff fibers have a diameter in the range of .0005 to .0015 inches.

11. A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 1 wherein at least some of the multi-fiber bristles comprise a hollow support fiber and a plurality of smaller fibers constrained and supported within the hollow support fiber.

10 12. A mascara brush as defined in claim 11 wherein the hollow support fiber is a fiber with a C-shaped cross section having a slot opening into the hollow center thereof, and the smaller fibers are engaged and supported therein.

13. A mascara brush as defined in claim 11 wherein the hollow support fiber is a polymer fiber having a diameter in the range of .005 to .020 inches.

15 14. A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 13 wherein the smaller fibers have diameters of .001 inches or less.

15. A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 1 wherein the multi-fiber comprise a spiral support fiber and a plurality of smaller diameter fibers surrounded and supported by the spiral support fiber.

20 16. A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 1 wherein the multi-fiber bristles comprise a plurality of fibers braided together.

17. A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 16 wherein the fibers that are braided together include different kinds of fibers.

25 18. A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 17 wherein some of the fibers are stiffer than other of the fibers.

5 19. A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 18 wherein some of the fibers comprise
bundles of microfibers.

20. A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of the fibers of the
multi-fiber bristles is a relatively stiff support fiber and others of the fibers of the multi-fiber
bristle are less stiff and are deployed in supportive interengagement with the support fiber.